Choptank Road (SR 15) Planning Study PDC Project Handoff May 15, 2002

Section 6: Cultural Resource Consultation.

Field View Meeting Minutes April 30, 2001

Attendees Representing
Charles Altevogt DelDOT

Gwen Davis Delaware SHPO

Nick Blendy
Barbara Silber
Amy Seavey
Katie Post

McCormick, Taylor & Associates
McCormick, Taylor & Associates
McCormick, Taylor & Associates
McCormick, Taylor & Associates

Field View Meeting Minutes May 15, 2001

Attendees
Carol Sullivan
Ann Montone
Patrick Carpenter
Mike Hahn
Joanne Haughey

Representing
DelDOT
DelDOT
DelDOT
DelDOT
DelDOT
DelDOT

Gwen Davis Delaware SHPO

Kevin Faust COE

Eric Zuelke DNREC Delaware Natural Heritage Program

Thomas Nobile ERI

Field View Meeting Minutes December 12, 2001

Attendees Representing
Charles Altevogt DelDOT
Mike Hahn DelDOT
Kevin Cunningham DelDOT
Patrick Carpenter DelDOT

Gwen Davis Delaware SHPO
Robin Bodo Delaware SHPO
Ann McLeave Delaware SHPO

Nick Blendy
Barbara Silber
Amy Seavey

McCormick, Taylor & Associates
McCormick, Taylor & Associates
McCormick, Taylor & Associates



Choptank Road, New Castle County and Carter Road, Kent County Field View April 30, 2001 12:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

NAME

Charles Altevogt Gwen Davis Nick Blendy Barbara Silber Amy Seavey Katie Post

REPRESENTING

DelDOT
Delaware SHPO
McCormick, Taylor & Associates
McCormick, Taylor & Associates
McCormick, Taylor & Associates
McCormick, Taylor & Associates

Purpose of the Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting was to field view the archaeological and historic structures issues in relation to the proposed transportation projects along Choptank Road and Carter Road.

Discussion:

- Charles Altevogt suggested reviewing the mapping for Choptank Road before beginning the field view.
- 2. Gwen Davis noted that the 1993 Native American archaeological probability zones depicted on the mapping should be re-examined and modified as necessary to reflect current models of archaeological research and post-1993 archaeological data. She also noted that architectural resources depicted on the mapping were from the U.S. 301 Study and should be updated and refined, in addition to mapping other architectural properties not yet documented.
- Mr. Altevogt explained the proposed avoidance alternatives being developed and how some sharp curves will be softened. He also noted that there may be a displacement on Bunker Hill Road.
- 4. Nick Blendy asked about the Choptank Bridge replacement project (over Back Creek) and questioned whether the information for that project would be available for this project. Mr. Altevogt indicated that this project will tie to the approaches constructed by the bridge replacement project.

- Mr. Altevogt asked what the National Register Boundary was for -109, Choptank/Rhoadesdale Property (aka. J. Clayton Farm, T. Clayton House, East Choptank House, Rhoades House). Barbara Silber stated that we do have the DE SHPO CRS form. However, we would need to get the boundary description and justification from the National Register form and SHPO.
- Mr. Altevogt explained the development that is occurring and planned by Middletown and pointed out the industrial park currently being constructed at the corner of Route 301 and Bunker Hill Road.

Began field view at Bunker Hill Road.

- 7. Mr. Altevogt noted that the curve in front of Rosedale (N-5148) will be softened, pulling the road away from the property. Ms. Davis explained that archaeology would be a concern near the stream and the former site of the racetrack.
- 8. Mr. Altevogt remarked that Choptank Road, in the vicinity of Bunker Hill Road, would be widened to the east and that every effort would be made to preserve the trees and the fencing to the west along the Rosedale and Sharp properties. He explained that the ROW would approximately double because of drainage needs. The paved area would expand from 18 feet to 32 feet, with 11-foot lanes and 5-foot shoulders.
- 9. Ms. Davis asked that the SHPO files be checked for a CRS form for the structure and farm situated on Sharp Lane. She also noted that lands within the project corridor ranked as low probability zones for containing archaeological sites by the 1993 predictive model for Native American sites should be re-evaluated via current models of archaeological research and post-1993 archaeological data. Mr. Altevogt confirmed that the areas should only be properly mapped at this time.
- 10. Mr. Altevogt noted that the Holten Farm is listed in the National Register and asked if a 20-foot take along the edge of this property would be an Adverse Effect. Ms. Davis responded that any take would likely result in an Adverse Effect. She added that maybe a 5-foot take to avoid fencing on the other side of the road could be No Adverse Effect. However, the roadway being constructed on the portion of land being taken would also change the setting. Ms. Davis added that maybe a take on a larger property may be less of an impact.
- 11. Ms. Silber explained that since its recordation in 1979, the J. Callahan House (N-5147) that was once located in the southeast quadrant of the Armstrong Corner Road/Choptank Road intersection has been razed. After discussing several discrepancies between historic and modern mapping of the Armstrong Corner Road/Choptank Road intersection area,



Ms. Silber pointed out the general vicinity where N-5147 is suspected to have stood. She also stated that these lands may contain archaeological deposits associated with the aforementioned resource.

- Mr. Altevogt described the proposed realignment of Choptank Road near Bohemia Mill Road to soften the curves. Ms. Davis asked how important it was to straighten out the roadway. Mr. Altevogt responded that the curves are substandard for the design speed of 50 mph. Ms. Davis noted that she didn't think the road should be turned into a highway, which is not necessarily a Section 106 issue, but a preference issue.
- 13. Amy Seavey asked what preliminary work should be done on the three (3) post-war houses near Armstrong Hill Road. Ms. Davis replied that the tax parcel information should be reviewed to determine a date of construction.
- Mr. Altevogt explained that the curve near Armstrong Corner Road would be softened by cutting across the west side of Choptank Road. Ms. Silber noted that there may be some archaeological issues along the west side. Ms. Davis agreed that there were archaeological issues, although there is a discrepancy in the mapping.
- Mr. Altevogt explained that ROW had been dedicated by the West Side Hunt subdivision to widen the road.
- 16. Ms. Davis requested that the consultant establish the ages on the two (2) properties across the street from the West Side Hunt subdivision by reviewing the tax parcel information.
- 17. Mr. Altevogt stated that 1692 Choptank Road is a potential total take. Ms. Davis suggested that the consultant establish the date of construction from the tax parcel information and proceed from there.
- Ms. Silber explained that the Lamborn House (no date) consisted of two structures which are no longer extant. Ms. Davis noted that there may be archaeological issues and there may have been tenant houses near the road. She suggested that the consultant include the CRS form with our documentation.
- Ms. Silber noted that two (2) properties that are listed in the National Register, N-5243 and N-5229, are currently surrounded by new subdivisions.
- 20. Mr. Altevogt explained that there would be a strip take from "Rhodesdale", which is situated across from the Fox Hunt Crossing subdivision. Ms. Silber noted that there is some archaeology situated along the right side of the property. Ms. Davis requested that we establish the dates of construction for the next five (5) houses east side of Choptank Road, after "Rhodesdale" by reviewing the tax parcel information for each.



- 21. Mr. Altevogt explained the roundabout concept and noted that the widening would be primarily on the west side across from the houses along the east side that are situated close to the road.
- 22. Ms. Silber explained that the property that is situated at the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Choptank and Churchtown Roads was recommended not eligible, but there is no formal evaluation. Ms. Davis commented that once the project is further along, a formal evaluation can be made to determine eligibility.
- 23. Ms. Silber explained that N-3680, also known as Locust Grove/Dickey House, was not formerly evaluated. It is situated in a modern subdivision near Churchtown Road. Ms. Davis requested that we travel eastward on Churchtown Road. The houses along the northern portion of Churchtown Road were discussed and Mr. Altevogt stated that the improvements would not extend that far down the road.
- 24. Ms. Davis asked that we check the date of construction via the tax parcel information for 1370 Choptank Road.
- Ms. Silber noted that N-427, also known as "Woodside" (situated on the east side of Choptank Road), is listed in the National Register. Mr. Altevogt explained that an avoidance alternative was being developed, but this was a tough section as far as widening because of the golf course, the grades and stormwater management facilities on the west side and the National Register property on the east side.
- Ms. Davis explained that there is a separate project to improve bridge #377 (not eligible) on Choptank Road and that archaeological testing near the bridge has been done as part of that project. A.D. Marble performed the cultural resources investigation under subcontract to the bridge design/build team consultant.
- 27. Ms. Silber noted that historic maps show that a schoolhouse once stood on the west side of Choptank Road, approximately 3,000 feet south of Bethel Church Road. As such, these lands are considered to be a high probability zone for containing archaeological deposits. She also stated that the two (2) Biggs properties, N-5123 and N-6190 (fruit stand on corner of Bethel Church and Choptank Road), were determined not eligible.
- Mr. Altevogt explained that the Bethel Church Road intersection would be pulled away to the west as to not impact the non-eligible Biggs property due to social reasons. The proposed roundabout, as currently conceptualized, would displace a portion of the tree line on the west side of Choptank Road.
- 29. Mr. Blendy indicated that the mapping will be refined and submitted for review prior to the June 4, 2001 Public Workshop.

The meeting reconvened at the medical center at Carter Road, in Kent County, Delaware.

- 30. Mr. Altevogt described the proposed improvements to Carter Road, including a 21-foot paved road, 5-foot shoulders and a 5-foot sidewalk. The existing ROW is 40 feet, proposed ROW would require an additional 10 feet.
- 31. Ms. Davis asked that the consultant confirm the date of construction for the house to the west of N-3870 through the tax parcel information. She also requested that the age of the swim club be determined.
- 32. Mr. Altevogt asked how much cultural resources work would be necessary to determine whether Colmar Manor is eligible. Ms. Davis replied that to make such a determination would take an extensive amount of work and that existing Subdivision Context for Wilmington, Delaware could be adapted and used for this purpose. She added that more detail on the proposed alignment would be necessary before determining whether the subdivision would need to be evaluated. Ms. Davis also noted that she would like to have an architectural historian from the SHPO view the subdivision and she would coordinate with DelDOT.
- Mr. Altevogt explained that the design includes 5-foot paved shoulders, a small grass strip and a 5-foot sidewalk. That totals 10 feet on each side, plus the grass strip. Ms. Davis asked for an idea of the total ROW required. Mr. Altevogt replied that there would be an additional 10 feet of ROW from the existing. Mr. Blendy added that the curb and sidewalks would be similar to those at the Gardenside subdivision. Mr. Altevogt indicated the project would include 5-foot sidewalks instead of 4-foot to meet ADA requirements.
- Ms. Davis commented that there was a wide portion of the existing ROW near Colmar Manor. Mr. Altevogt explained that the pink line on the alignment depicted on the aerial mapping is the existing ROW and the black line is the cut section. Mr. Blendy added that based on current mapping, there will be more than an additional 10 feet of ROW at the area. Mr. Altevogt noted that there may be a temporary easement of an additional 20 feet in some places (for grading in lieu of permanent right of way). The area near Colmar Manor contains a high hill that would need to be cut to put in the sidewalks.
- 35. Mr. Altevogt stated that the current two-way stop intersection at Sunnyside Road is proposed as a four-way stop and could eventually be a roundabout.
- 36. Ms. Davis stated that more detail of the proposed alignment would be necessary to determine whether properties should be evaluated. She also noted that a more detailed description regarding the nature of the project, including stormwater management and



impacts would be necessary to determine which properties would require further evaluation.

- 37. Ms. Davis and Ms. Silber discussed the archaeology issues near Lake Como and Mill Creek.
- 38. Ms. Davis requested that N-3936 be added to the map as a structure 50 years old or older (yellow hatching).
- 39. Ms. Davis suggested that a Phase 1A report be prepared for Carter Road.
- 40. Mr. Altevogt noted that there would be a May 22, 2001 Public Workshop and another public workshop in July. The hand-off to the designers is scheduled for September 2001.

Follow-Up Items:

- McCormick, Taylor & Associates (MTA) will revise mapping to reflect correct architectural and archaeological resources along Choptank Road and submit to DelDOT.
- MTA will provide the National Register boundary and verbal description for N-109 to DelDOT.

Per the 1984 National Register form for the <u>Rebuilding of St. Georges Hundred</u>, the defined boundaries for the Choptank/Rhoadesdale Property (N-109) are as follows:

"The nominated parcel begins at a point on the east side of Route 435, 200 feet south of the present farm lane and runs east (northeast) for 1,200 feet toward the creek. At this point, the line turns north (northwest) at 90 [degrees] and runs for 500 feet before turning west (southeast) for 1,200 feet back toward Route 435. The western boundary is formed by joining the two points along Route 435." Tax Parcel 13-012.00.007

3. MTA will check the SHPO files for a CRS form for the structure and farm situated on Sharp Lane and provide the information to DelDOT.

Review of the DE SHPO files on May 4, 2001 has revealed that the structure and farm situated on Sharp Lane is not currently listed in the DE SHPO CRS inventory. A review of tax parcel information on 05/11/01 established that the date of construction for the farm, tax parcel # 130160009, is 1940.

4. MTA will check the tax parcel information to establish dates of construction on 10 structures along Choptank Road.



After a review of the tax parcel information on May 2, 2001, the dates of construction are as follows:

1370 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301100029 – Date of Construction 1960 1412 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301100023 – Date of Construction 1973 1420 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301100017 – Date of Construction 1975 1428 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301100018 – Date of Construction 1970 1436 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301100019 – Date of Construction 1971 1692 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301200009 – Date of Construction 1952 1706 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301700002 – Date of Construction 1950 1712 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301700075 – Date of Construction 1983 1817 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301700067 – Date of Construction 1979 1831 Choptank Road, Tax Parcel #1301700065 – Date of Construction 1980

 MTA will check the date of construction on the structure to the west of N-3870 on Carter Road.

The tax parcel information revealed that the house was constructed in 1992.

6. MTA will update the Carter Road mapping to include N-3936 and Bannister Hall.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

These minutes were derived from the notes taken by the author and reflect her understanding of what transpired during this meeting. Anyone with a different understanding should contact Rick Kiegel at (410) 662-7400. If no comments are received within 10 days of receipt of these minutes, they will be considered final.

Minutes prepared by:

McCORMICK, TAYLOR & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Katie Post

Research Assistant

cc. SHPO

Robin Bodo

DelDOT

Michael Hahn

Patrick Carpenter

MTA

Rick Kiegel, P.E.

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Meeting Minutes April 30, 2001